

Message Text

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TAGS: ELAB, NZ

SUBJ: NEW ZEALAND NEWSPAPER STRIKE

1. SUMMARY. TWO-DAY JOURNALISTS' STRIKE CURTAILS PUBLICATION OF ALL NON-AUCKLAND DAILIES. NON-WAGE MATTERS AT ISSUE IN DISPUTE BUT AWARD COULD BECOME A TEST CASE OF NATIONAL GOVERNMENT'S NEWLY ENACTED WAGE REGULATIONS. END SUMMARY.

2. FIRST MAJOR JOURNALISTS' STRIKE IN NEW ZEALAND'S NEWSPAPER HISTORY TOOK EFFECT EARLY WEDNESDAY MORNING, JULY 14. STRIKE AFFECTS DAILY NEWSPAPERS THROUGHOUT NEW ZEALAND, WITH EXCEPTION OF AUCKLAND PROVINCE NEWSPAPER WHOSE JOURNALISTS ARE IN SEPARATE UNION.

ALTHOUGH JOURNALISTS HAVE STOPPED WORK FOR AT LEAST 48 HOURS AND PRINTERS HAVE AGREED NOT TO SET ANY TYPE WHICH WOULD HAVE NORMALLY BEEN HANDLED BY JOURNALIST UNION MEMBERS, MANY DAILIES HAVE MANAGED TO PRINT SERIOUSLY CURTAILED EDITIONS USING THEIR EXECUTIVE STAFFS.

3. NEW ZEALAND JOURNALISTS UNION CALLED THE TWO-DAY STOPPAGE FOLLOWING REJECTION OF THE EMPLOYERS' FINAL OFFER ON JUNE 25. DISPUTE CENTERS ON NON-WAGE ISSUES, SUCH AS JOB SECURITY AND SICK LEAVE, BUT HAS THE

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POTENTIAL OF BECOMING THE FIRST TEST CASE OF EXEMPTIONS

CLAUSE OF THE RECENTLY ENACTED WAGE REGULATIONS.
REGULATIONS FORBID WAGE INCREASES EXCEPT UNDER EXCEPTIONAL
CIRCUMSTANCES.

4. STRIKE COMES AMIDST SPECULATION THAT PRINTERS
ARE ALSO ABOUT TO EMBARK ON STRIKE INDEPENDENT OF THE
JOURNALISTS.
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